

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

(Version with marking to show changes made)

1. (cancelled) An improved power assisted lever arm ratchet which is comprised of a ratchet handle containing a drive motor, a ratchet extension sleeve attached to the ratchet handle, a ratchet extension shaft attached to the ratchet handle and a ratchet head attached to the ratchet extension sleeve and to the ratchet extension shaft, wherein the ratchet extension shaft is disposed along an axis of the ratchet extension sleeve and wherein an area between the ratchet extension shaft and the ratchet extension sleeve is completely filled with air..

2. (cancelled) An improved power assisted lever arm ratchet as described in claim 1 in which said ratchet extension sleeve and ratchet extension shaft are approximately six to thirty inches in length; and wherein the ratchet extension sleeve and the ratchet extension shaft are disengageable from between the ratchet handle and the ratchet head.

3. (currently amended) An improved power assisted lever arm ratchet which is comprised of a first configuration and of a second configuration, wherein the first configuration includes a ratchet handle containing a drive motor and attached to a ratchet head and wherein the second configuration includes ~~[[of a]]~~ the ratchet handle containing ~~[[a]]~~ the drive motor, a removable ratchet extension

sleeve attached to the ratchet handle, a removable ratchet extension shaft attached to the ratchet handle and [[a]] the ratchet head attached to the ratchet extension sleeve and to the ratchet extension shaft, wherein the ratchet extension sleeve and the ratchet extension shaft are separately removable and wherein the ratchet extension shaft is freely rotatable disposed along a central axis of the ratchet extension sleeve without support from or touching of the ratchet extension sleeve.

4. (previously presented) An improved power assisted lever arm ratchet as described in claim 3 in which said ratchet extension sleeve and ratchet extension shaft are approximately six to thirty inches in length.

5. (currently amended) An improved power assisted lever arm ratchet set which is comprised of a ratchet handle containing a drive motor, a plurality of different length removable ratchet extension sleeves, a plurality of removable ratchet extension shafts and a ratchet head, wherein the plurality of removable ratchet extension sleeves and the plurality of ratchet extension shafts are separately removable, wherein the ratchet handle has a first sleeve attachment device and a first shaft attachment device, wherein the ratchet head has a second sleeve attachment device for engaging a first sleeve attachment type device and has a second shaft attachment device for engaging a first shaft attachment type device and

wherein the ratchet extension sleeves are furnished on a first end with a second sleeve attachment device,

wherein the ratchet extension sleeves are furnished on a second end with a first sleeve attachment device,

wherein the ratchet extension shafts are furnished on a first end with a second shaft attachment device, and

wherein the ratchet extension shafts are furnished on a second end with a first shaft attachment device, and

wherein first sleeve attachment devices attach to second sleeve attachment devices and wherein first shaft attachment devices attach to second shaft attachment devices for forming ratchets having different lever arm length..

6. (previously presented) An improved power assisted lever arm ratchet set as described in claim 5 in which said ratchet extension sleeves and ratchet extension shafts range from approximately six to thirty inches in length.

7. (withdrawn) An improved power assisted lever arm ratchet which is comprised of a ratchet handle containing a drive motor fixedly attached to a ratchet extension, a ratchet extension shaft fixedly attached to said ratchet handle and a removable ratchet head attached to the ratchet extension and to the ratchet extension shaft.

8. (withdrawn) An improved power assisted lever arm ratchet as described in claim 7 in which said ratchet extension and ratchet extension shaft are approximately six to thirty inches in length.

9. (withdrawn) An improved power assisted lever arm ratchet which is comprised of a ratchet head fixedly attached to a ratchet extension, a ratchet extension shaft fixedly attached to said ratchet head and a removable ratchet handle containing a drive motor, wherein the removable ratchet handle is attached to the ratchet extension and to the ratchet extension shaft.

10. (withdrawn) An improved power assisted lever arm ratchet as described in claim 9 in which said ratchet extension and ratchet extension shaft are approximately six to thirty inches in length.

11. (cancelled) A ratchet extension sleeve and ratchet extension shaft with attachment members to permit said ratchet extension sleeve and ratchet extension shaft to be installed on and to extend a conventional power assisted lever arm ratchet, wherein the attachment members are the same attachment members engaging a ratchet handle of the power assisted lever arm ratchet to a ratchet head of the power assisted lever arm ratchet.

12. (previously presented) An improved power assisted lever arm ratchet comprising

- a ratchet handle containing an air drive motor,
- an air line connection furnished to the ratchet handle;
- a drive shaft protruding from the ratchet handle;
- a drive extension sleeve mounting collar disposed on the ratchet handle and surrounding the drive shaft;
- a ratchet extension sleeve having a first end and having a second end, wherein the first end of the ratchet extension sleeve is formed as an interface collar and is attached to the drive extension sleeve mounting collar of the ratchet handle and wherein the second end of the ratchet extension sleeve is formed as an interface thread;
- a ratchet extension shaft having a first end and a second end, wherein the ratchet extension shaft is disposed substantially parallel and centered to the ratchet extension sleeve,
- a drive socket attached to the first end of the ratchet extension shaft and connected to the drive shaft protruding from the ratchet handle;
- a drive tang attached to the second end of the ratchet extension shaft;
- a ratchet head having a socket mount and having a threaded collar attached to the interface thread of the second end of the ratchet extension sleeve;

a ratchet head drive shaft attached to the ratchet head and connected to the drive tang of the ratchet extension shaft;

and wherein the ratchet extension shaft is unsupported apart from support furnished by the drive shaft to the first end of the ratchet extension shaft and furnished by the ratchet head to the second end of the ratchet extension shaft; and wherein the ratchet handle is directly attachable to the ratchet head by connecting the drive shaft of the ratchet handle to the drive shaft of the ratchet head and by connecting the sleeve mounting collar to the threaded collar.

13. (previously presented) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim 12

wherein the ratchet extension shaft freely rotates between the drive shaft and the ratchet head drive shaft;

wherein the ratchet extension shaft is surrounded by a jacket of air between the drive shaft and the ratchet head drive shaft; and

wherein the jacket of air is uninterrupted between the drive shaft and the ratchet head drive shaft;

wherein the interface thread is compatible to the drive extension sleeve mounting collar,

wherein the threaded collar of the ratchet head is compatible to the interface collar,

wherein the drive tang is compatible to the drive shaft,

wherein the ratchet head drive shaft is compatible to the drive socket.

14. (withdrawn) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim 12

further comprising

an interface collar furnished to the first end of the ratchet extension;

a drive extension sleeve mounting collar (301) attached to the ratchet handle, wherein the interface collar is removably attached to the drive extension sleeve mounting collar.

15. (withdrawn) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim 14

further comprising

a ratchet head mount furnished to the second end of the ratchet extension.

a drive extension mounting collar (302) attached to the ratchet head, wherein the ratchet head mount is removable attached to the drive extension mounting collar.

16. (withdrawn) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim 12

a ratchet head mount furnished to the second end of the ratchet extension.

a drive extension mounting collar (302) attached to the ratchet head, wherein the ratchet head mount is removable attached to the drive extension mounting collar.

17. (currently amended) An improved power assisted lever arm ratchet comprising

- a ratchet handle containing an air drive motor,
- an air line connection furnished to the ratchet handle;
- a drive extension sleeve mounting collar mounted on the ratchet handle ;
- a drive shaft protruding from the ratchet handle and surrounded by the drive extension sleeve mounting collar;
- a ratchet extension sleeve having a first end formed as an interface collar and having a second end formed as an interface thread, wherein the first end of the ratchet extension sleeve is attached to the drive extension sleeve mounting collar of the ratchet handle;
- a ratchet extension shaft having a first end and a second end, wherein the ratchet extension shaft is disposed substantially parallel to the ratchet extension sleeve;
- a drive socket attached to the first end of the ratchet extension shaft and connected to the drive shaft protruding from the ratchet handle;
- a drive tang formed at the second end of the ratchet extension shaft;
- a ratchet head having a drive shaft and having a threaded collar attached to an interface thread of the second end of the ratchet extension sleeve; wherein the drive tang of the second end of the ratchet extension shaft is attached to the ratchet head drive shaft of the ratchet head;

and wherein the ratchet extension shaft is unsupported apart from support furnished to the drive socket of the first end of the ratchet extension shaft and to the drive tang of the second end of the ratchet extension shaft; and wherein the ratchet handle is directly attachable to the ratchet head by connecting the drive shaft of the ratchet handle to the drive shaft of the ratchet head and by connecting the sleeve mounting collar to the threaded collar.

18. (withdrawn) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim 17

further comprising

an interface collar furnished to the first end of the ratchet extension;

a drive extension sleeve mounting collar (301) attached to the ratchet handle, wherein the interface collar is removably attached to the drive extension sleeve mounting collar.

19. (currently amended) An improved power assisted lever arm ratchet comprising

a ratchet handle (101) containing an air drive motor,

an air line connection (105) furnished to the ratchet handle (101);

a ratchet extension sleeve (102) having a first end and having a second end, wherein the first end of the ratchet extension sleeve is attached to the ratchet handle;

a ratchet extension shaft (202) having a first end and a second end, wherein the ratchet extension shaft (202) is disposed substantially parallel to the ratchet extension sleeve (102), and wherein the ratchet extension shaft (202) is unsupported apart from support furnished to the first end of the ratchet extension shaft and the second end of the ratchet extension shaft; wherein the first end of the ratchet extension shaft (202) is attached to a drive shaft disposed at the ratchet handle (101);

a ratchet head (103) having a socket mount (104) and having attached the second end of the ratchet extension sleeve (102) and having a ratchet head drive shaft attached the second end of the ratchet extension shaft (202),

wherein the ratchet extension shaft is held exclusively by the drive shaft of the ratchet handle and by the ratchet head drive shaft; and

wherein the ratchet handle is directly attachable to the ratchet head.

20. (previously presented) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim 21,

further comprising

a drive tang (202B) attached to the second end of the ratchet extension shaft (202)
wherein the drive tang is constructed like the drive shaft (201);
wherein the ratchet head drive shaft (203) attached to the ratchet head (103),
wherein the drive tang (202B) engages the ratchet head drive shaft (203), wherein
the ratchet head drive shaft is constructed like the drive socket (202A).

21. (previously presented) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet
according to claim 19
wherein the drive shaft (201) is attached to the ratchet handle (101);
further comprising
a drive socket (202A) attached to the first end of the ratchet extension shaft (202),
wherein the drive socket (202A) engages the drive shaft (201).

22. (previously presented) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet
according to claim 19
further comprising
wherein the ratchet head (103) is demountable from the ratchet handle (101); and
wherein an area between the ratchet extension shaft and the ratchet extension
sleeve is completely filled with air.

23.(withdrawn) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim

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further comprising

male threads located on an end of the ratchet handle;

an interface collar furnished to the first end of the ratchet extension and engaging the male threads located at the end of the ratchet handle;

an interface thread (102B) located at the second end of the ratchet extension sleeve (102); and wherein the interface thread is constructed like the male threads;

a threaded collar disposed on the ratchet head (103), wherein the interface thread (102B) engages the threaded collar; and wherein the threaded collar is constructed like the interface collar.

24.(withdrawn) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim

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further comprising

a drive extension sleeve mounting collar (301) disposed at the ratchet handle (101);

a drive extension mounting collar (302) disposed at the ratchet head (103);

a drive shaft (201) mounted at the ratchet handle (101), wherein the first end of the ratchet extension shaft (202) engages the drive shaft (201);

a ratchet head drive shaft (203) mounted at the ratchet head (103), wherein the second end of the ratchet extension shaft (202) is engaged with the ratchet head drive shaft (203);

wherein the ratchet extension is removably attached to the drive extension sleeve mounting collar (301) and to the drive extension mounting collar (302).

25.(withdrawn) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim

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further comprising

a drive extension sleeve mounting collar (301) disposed at the ratchet handle (101);

a drive extension mounting collar (302) disposed at the ratchet head (103);

a ratchet head drive shaft (203) mounted at the ratchet head (103), wherein the second end of the ratchet extension shaft (202) engages the ratchet head drive shaft (203);

a drive shaft (201) mounted at the ratchet handle (101), wherein the first end of the ratchet extension shaft (202) is engaged with the drive shaft (201);

wherein the ratchet extension is removable attached to the drive extension sleeve mounting collar (301) and to the drive extension mounting collar (302).

26.(withdrawn) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim

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further comprising

a ratchet head drive shaft (203) attached to the ratchet head (103) and extended to a length appropriate, wherein ratchet extension (202) is fixedly attached to ratchet head (103);

a drive shaft (201) attached to the ratchet handle (101), wherein the ratchet head drive shaft (203) engages the drive shaft (101);

a drive extension sleeve mounting collar (301) disposed at the ratchet handle (101), wherein the ratchet extension (102) is removably attached to the drive extension sleeve mounting collar (301)

27.(previously presented) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim 19

wherein the ratchet extension is furnished by a tubular piece and wherein the ratchet extension shaft is furnished by a solid rod; and wherein the ratchet extension shaft is not supported by any bearings located between a surface of the ratchet extension shaft and an inner wall of the ratchet extension sleeve..

28.(previously presented) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim 19

wherein the ratchet extension shaft (202) is connected to a rotary output of the air drive motor and wherein the socket mount (104) is rotation transferring connected to the ratchet extension shaft (202).

29.(previously presented) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim 19

wherein the ratchet extension shaft is disposed in the ratchet extension sleeve and disposed for freely rotating in the ratchet extension sleeve.

30.(previously presented) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim 19

wherein the ratchet extension surrounds the ratchet extension shaft without contact between the ratchet extension sleeve and the ratchet extension shaft.

31.(previously presented) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim 19

wherein the ratchet extension sleeve and the ratchet extension shaft are separate elements, wherein the relative position of ratchet extension sleeve and ratchet extension shaft are defined by the respective mountings on the ratchet handle and on the ratchet head.

32. (currently amended) The improved power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim 19,
further comprising
a drive tang (202B) attached to the second end of the ratchet extension shaft (202)
wherein the drive tang is constructed like the drive shaft (201);
wherein the ratchet head drive shaft (203) attached to the ratchet head (103),
wherein the drive tang (202B) engages the ratchet head drive shaft (203), wherein
the ratchet head drive shaft is constructed like the drive socket (202A);
wherein the drive shaft (201) is attached to the ratchet handle (101);
further comprising
a drive socket (202A) attached to the first end of the ratchet extension shaft (102) ;
wherein the drive socket (202A) engages the drive shaft (201) [[.] ;
wherein the ratchet head (103) is demountable from the ratchet handle (101); and
wherein an area between the ratchet extension shaft and the ratchet extension
sleeve is completely filled with air;
wherein the ratchet extension is furnished by a tubular piece and wherein the ratchet
extension shaft is furnished by a solid rod; and wherein the ratchet extension shaft
is not supported by any bearings located between a surface of the ratchet extension
shaft and an inner wall of the ratchet extension sleeve;

wherein the ratchet extension shaft (202) is connected to a rotary output of the air drive motor and wherein the socket mount (104) is rotation transferring connected to the ratchet extension shaft (202);

wherein the ratchet extension shaft is disposed in the ratchet extension sleeve and disposed for freely rotating in the ratchet extension sleeve;

wherein the ratchet extension surrounds the ratchet extension shaft without contact between the ratchet extension sleeve and the ratchet extension shaft;

wherein the ratchet extension sleeve and the ratchet extension shaft are separate elements, wherein the relative position of ratchet extension sleeve and ratchet extension shaft are defined by the respective mountings on the ratchet handle and on the ratchet head.

33. (new) A kit of an extendable power assisted lever arm ratchet comprising a ratchet handle containing an air drive motor and connecting to an air line connection and having a drive shaft protruding from the ratchet handle and having a sleeve mounting collar disposed on the ratchet handle and surrounding the drive shaft;

a ratchet extension shaft having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the ratchet extension shaft is formed as a drive socket and wherein the second end of the ratchet extension shaft is formed as a drive tang;

a ratchet extension sleeve having a first end and having a second end, wherein the first end of the ratchet extension sleeve is formed as an interface collar and is attached to the drive extension sleeve mounting collar of the ratchet handle and wherein the second end of the ratchet extension sleeve is formed as an interface thread;

a ratchet head having a drive shaft and having a threaded collar;

wherein the ratchet extension shaft and the ratchet extension sleeve are to engage with a ratchet handle and a ratchet head as follows;

wherein the ratchet handle is attachable to the ratchet head by connecting the drive shaft of the ratchet handle to the drive shaft of the ratchet head and by connecting the sleeve mounting collar to the threaded collar thereby forming a ratchet;

wherein the ratchet is extendable by inserting the ratchet extension sleeve and the ratchet extension shaft between the ratchet handle and the ratchet head by connecting the drive shaft of the ratchet handle to the drive socket, by connecting the sleeve mounting collar to the interface collar, by connecting the drive tang to the drive shaft of the ratchet head and by connecting the interface thread to the threaded collar thereby forming an extended ratchet;

wherein the ratchet extension shaft is unsupported apart from support furnished by the drive shaft of the ratchet handle to the first end of the ratchet extension shaft and furnished by the drive shaft of the ratchet head to the second end of the ratchet extension shaft; and

wherein the ratchet extension shaft is disposed substantially parallel and centered to the ratchet extension sleeve.

34. (new) An extension kit for a power assisted lever arm ratchet comprising a ratchet extension shaft having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the ratchet extension shaft is formed as a drive socket and wherein the second end of the ratchet extension shaft is formed as a drive tang;

a ratchet extension sleeve having a first end and having a second end, wherein the first end of the ratchet extension sleeve is formed as an interface collar and is attached to the drive extension sleeve mounting collar of the ratchet handle and wherein the second end of the ratchet extension sleeve is formed as an interface thread;

wherein the ratchet extension shaft and the ratchet extension sleeve are to engage with a ratchet handle and a ratchet head as follows;

wherein the ratchet handle contains an air drive motor and connects to an air line connection;

wherein a drive shaft protrudes from the ratchet handle;

wherein a sleeve mounting collar is disposed on the ratchet handle and surrounds the drive shaft;

wherein the ratchet head has a drive shaft and has a threaded collar;

wherein the ratchet handle is attachable to the ratchet head by connecting the drive shaft of the ratchet handle to the drive shaft of the ratchet head and by connecting the sleeve mounting collar to the threaded collar thereby forming a ratchet;

wherein the ratchet is extendable by inserting the ratchet extension sleeve and the ratchet extension shaft between the ratchet handle and the ratchet head by connecting the drive shaft of the ratchet handle to the drive socket, by connecting the sleeve mounting collar to the interface collar, by connecting the drive tang to the drive shaft of the ratchet head and by connecting the interface thread to the threaded collar thereby forming an extended ratchet;.

35. (new) The extension kit for a power assisted lever arm ratchet according to claim 34,

wherein the ratchet extension shaft is unsupported apart from support furnished by the drive shaft of the ratchet handle to the first end of the ratchet extension shaft and furnished by the drive shaft of the ratchet head to the second end of the ratchet extension shaft; and

wherein the ratchet extension shaft is disposed substantially parallel and centered to the ratchet extension sleeve.

REMARKS

Claims 3 through 6, 12 to 13, 17, 19 to 22 and 27 to 32 continue to be under consideration.

Claims 1, 2, and 11 are being cancelled.

New claims 33 to 35 are being introduced.

New claim 33 is based on the language of claim 12.

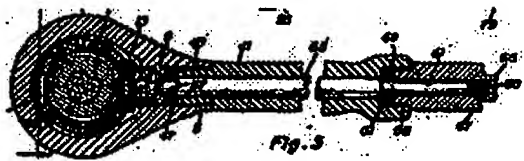
New claim 34 is based on the language of claim 12.

New claim 35 is based on the language of claim 12.

The Office Action refers to Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lampke, US Patent No. 2,808,749.

Lampke discloses all the limitations of the above claims 1, i.e., power wrench comprising a handle containing a motor (e.g., 67); a ratchet extension (41) attached to the handle; a ratchet extension shaft (55) attached to the handle and a ratchet head (1); and the ratchet head (1) attached to the extension and the shaft, wherein the extension and the shaft are removable; a plurality of removable extension (41, 67, 81) and a plurality of removable shafts (55, 77) each separately removable.



Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The reference Lampke fails to teach that the ratchet handle directly engages the ratchet head. Instead the reference Lampke states in column 2, lines 55 to 62:

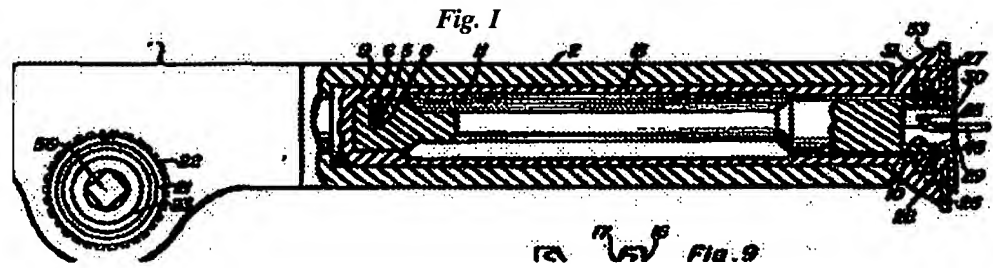
“To shorten the wrench, the motor 63 is detached from the handle 41, the handle 41 is detached from the socket 5, which is to say the neck 3, the drive shaft 55 is pulled loose from the hub 15 of the bevel gear 13 and chuck 67 unscrewed from the socket 49. A shorter drive shaft 77 is substituted for the drive shaft 55.”.

Clearly, the reference Lampke fails to teach or suggest the immediate attachment of ratchet handle to ratchet head called for in claims 5 and 11, as amended, of the present application.

Applicant submits that the reference Lampke fails to show an elimination of his drive shaft 55, but instead teaches a substitution by a drive shaft 77..

4. Claims 19-22 and 27-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hendrickson, US Patent No. 3,430,510.

Hendrickson
discloses all the
limitations of the above
claims 19, i.e., a ratchet
handle



(48) containing an air drive motor, an air line connection (inherent) furnished to the ratchet handle; a ratchet extension sleeve (2) having a first end and having a second end, wherein the first end of the ratchet extension sleeve is attached to the ratchet handle; a ratchet extension shaft (11) having a first end and a second end, wherein the ratchet extension shaft (11) is disposed substantially parallel to the ratchet extension sleeve (2), and wherein the ratchet extension shaft (11) is unsupported apart from support furnished to the first end of the ratchet extension shaft and the second end of the ratchet extension shaft; wherein the first end of the ratchet extension shaft (11) is attached to a drive shaft (54) disposed at the ratchet handle (48); a ratchet head (1) having a socket mount (56) and having attached the second end of the ratchet extension sleeve (2) and having a ratchet head drive shaft (49) attached the second end of the ratchet extension shaft (11), wherein the ratchet extension shaft is held exclusively by the drive shaft and by the ratchet head drive shaft.

Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 19 of this application requires that: “wherein the ratchet extension shaft is held exclusively by the drive shaft of the ratchet handle and by the ratchet head drive shaft”.

In clear contrast, the reference Hendrickson, column 4, lines 64 to 68 states: “When a fastener has become firmly seated, flexible shaft 11 twists in a manner preventing excessive twisting forces which may shear the head of a fastener.”.

Claim 19 requires a limited engagement of the ratchet extension shaft, whereas the Hendrickson reference teaches twisting the flexible shaft 11 for protecting a fastener.

The reference O. Hendrickson further teaches in column 3, lines 44 to 49: “Within the hollow portion of the drive shaft housing 2 is concentrically disposed a hollow drive shaft 15 terminating in a square end portion 49 which passes through the end portion 4 of drive shaft housing 2 and further extends into square recess 50 of worm screw gear 51.”

Thus hollow drive shaft 15 of the reference O. Hendrickson would prevent flexible shaft 11 from operating like the ratchet extension shaft of claim 19 of the present application.

In addition, the gear housing 1 cannot be directly attached to the power source 48 of the reference O. Hendrickson in clear contrast to the amended requirement of claim 19 that the ratchet handle be attachable to the ratchet head..

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the present application specify a ratchet extension, whereas the reference O. Hendrickson teaches an angle head extension for wrenches.

(Claim 20), a drive tang (9) attached to the second end of the ratchet extension shaft (11) wherein the drive tang is constructed like the drive shaft (54), wherein the ratchet head drive shaft (49) attached to the ratchet head (1), wherein the drive tang (9) engages the ratchet head drive shaft (49), wherein the ratchet head drive shaft (engaging 9) is constructed like the drive socket (10).

According to Figs. 1 and 2 of the reference Hendrickson, the square portion 9 is constructed of different dimensions than the prime mover output shaft 54. The square

portion 9 in Fig. 1 of the Hendrickson reference is substantially larger than the square cavity 10 and therefore have different matching sizes.

(Claim 22), wherein the ratchet head (1) is demountable from the ratchet handle (48); and wherein an area between the ratchet extension shaft (11) and the ratchet extension sleeve (2) is completely filled with air.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

According to the reference Hendrickson, the drive shaft 15 is interposed between the flexible shaft 11 and the drive shaft housing 2. The drive shaft 15 prevents the area between the flexible shaft 11 and the drive shaft housing 2 to be completely filled with air.

The Office Action refers to Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103.

6. Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over anyone of Lampke, Hendrickson and Frenkel.

Each of the above mentioned prior art meets the limitations of the above claims except for disclosing an extension and a shaft having a length between 6 to thirty inches. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an extension and a corresponding shaft having a length of approximately 6-30", since it has been held that changing shape, dependent on work-piece parameters, involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Stevens*, 101 US PQ 284(CCPA1954).

Applicant respectfully submits that there is nothing suggested in the references, and therefore a length limitation is not obvious.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampke.

Lampke meets all of the limitations of claim 6, except for disclosing a plurality of

disclosing the range or a specific size of the extensions, modification within the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art dependent on work-piece/operational parameters as indicated above.

The reference Lampke teaches a n adapter for a power wrench, whereas in contrast the present application is concerned with a ratchet extension.

8. Claims 12,13 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampke in view of Hendrickson.

Lampke meet the limitations of the above claims, except for disclosing an air power wrench. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a pneumatic wrench as taught by Hendrickson, 04:56 in adapting the invention for application requiring pneumatic drive.

The reference Lampke is respectfully traversed as above.

Lampke in view of Hendrickson disclose the types of connections having similar constructions between the head and the handle.

The references Lampke and Hendrickson teach different constructive principles. The reference Hendrickson teaches an additional drive shaft 15. Both references provide adapters in contrast to the ratchet extension of the present application.

Claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious Frenkel (5,709,136).

Frenkel discloses all of the limitations of claims 1 and 11, including "an area" between the sleeve and the shaft completely filed with air, however, in the alternative eliminating the bearings, to save manufacturing costs, would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The present amendment cancels claims 1 and 11.

Entry of this Supplemental Amendment is respectfully solicited.

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

GARY BOCCADUTRE and PAUL V. MANNINO

By: Horst M. Kasper

Horst M. Kasper, their attorney,
13 Forest Drive, Warren, N.J. 07059
Tel.:(908)526-1717 Fax:(908)526-6977
Reg. No. 28,559; Docket No.: FRB211

rep/am